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The Third National Peace Congress.

The Third National American Peace Congress, held at Baltimore, May 3 to 6, was even more successful than had been anticipated. The Committee on Organization and the organizing secretary had done their work with exceptional thoroughness, and this, coupled with the enormous recent progress of the peace movement, made the Congress one of the strongest and most interesting yet held.

This convention was unique among peace congresses, for it was the first one ever held that was opened by the head of one of the great Powers of the world. Other congresses had had the expressed sympathy of rulers, as, for instance, the International Peace Congress in London, in 1908, from which King Edward VII received a representative deputation; the Congress at Rouen, in 1903, of which the President of France was the Honorary President; the Congress at Stockholm last year, to which the King of Sweden gave a memorable garden party, and the Congress at Boston in 1904, which the Secretary of State, John Hay, with the

cordial approval and sympathy of President Roosevelt, opened with a memorable address. As early as 1892 the Congress held at Berne was presided over by an ex-President of the Swiss Republic, Louis Ruchonnet. But this year, for the first time, the Chief Executive of a first-class power went in person and in an admirable speech opened a great congress of the friends of peace, while the second official in the Government, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, presided at the closing banquet.

Not only does this fact distinguish the Baltimore Congress beyond all others, but it marks in a peculiar way the immense advance which the cause of international peace has made in recent years. The movement for world peace is no longer restricted to the exposure and condemnation of the physical and moral horrors of war, to the preaching of international ideals, the theoretic presentation of institutions which should be substituted for the cruel and inhuman arbitrament of the sword; all this ethical, educational work—the only thing that was possible in the past—still goes on, and with a vigor, directness and effectiveness never before surpassed; but the principles and policies of the pacifists, corroborated and emphasized by all the enormous social advances of our time, have taken such wide and deep hold upon the public mind in all civilized countries that the governments themselves have become deeply impressed with the inevitability of the early triumph of the cause and have, in their own sphere and way, entered into its active promotion. In other words, peace ideals are now far to the front in practical politics.

The speech of President Taft (which we publish in full on another page) was, from the point of view of the Chief Magistrate of the nation, admirable in every way. It was original in conception and bore the clearest marks of genuine sincerity. It was not weakened by political trimming nor warped with miserable side pleas for the sacredness and glory of war. It made one feel that the United States is adding new lustre to its fame by the advanced position which the Administration of Mr. Taft is taking in the movement for a reign of goodwill, justice and law among the nations.

The speaking in the Congress was, on the whole, of an unusually high order, some of the addresses striking strong and quite new notes. In this and our next issue we are giving our friends an opportunity to read some of these speeches for themselves. The array of speakers was most unusual. In addition to the President of the United States and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, there were Cardinal Gibbons, Andrew Carnegie, ex-Secretary of

State John W. Foster, Senator T. E. Burton, Congressman Richard Bartholdt, Congressman James L. Slayden, Hon. James Brown Scott, Hon. William C. Dennis, Hon. Huntington Wilson, Hon. John Barrett, President Ira Remsen, President F. W. Boatwright, President E. D. Warfield, President S. P. Brooks, President Isaac Sharpless, President S. C. Mitchell, President E. A. Noble, Dean E. H. Griffin, Dean Henry Wade Rogers, Professor William I. Hull, Professor Samuel T. Dutton, Dr. Lyman Abbott, the Mayor of Baltimore, the Bishop of Maryland, Edwin D. Mead, Hamilton Holt, the two distinguished foreign guests, Baron d'Estournelles de Constant and Senator La Fontaine, and others. When was such an array of eminent men ever before gathered in support of the greatest of all reforms before the world?

We do not remember any peace congress, either national or international, in which the general interest was deeper or more continuously sustained. The audiences were large and followed the addresses with the closest attention and sympathy.

Most of the phases of the peace question usually discussed in peace gatherings came in for their share of consideration, but the subject which dominated the Congress, and to which the speakers returned again and again, was that of the treaty of unlimited arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, the negotiations for which were then far advanced. There was no mistaking the temper of the Congress on this subject. Applause of the most pronounced character followed every allusion to the subject. Great interest was also awakened by the paper of Mr. James Speyer, the banker, of New York, in which he made a plea for what he called financial neutrality; that is, the refusal by neutral powers to allow loans to be made by their citizens in support of a war.

It is a great satisfaction to be able to say that the press, which may now be reckoned a part of every public gathering, reflected the thought and spirit of the Congress in a very faithful and generous way.

This Third National Congress was held, nominally at least, under the auspices of the whole group of peace societies in this country, most of which were represented in its membership. A few of the western societies sent no delegates. A step was taken by the Congress which, it is hoped, will bring all the peace organizations into greater unity and harmony and prevent the overlapping and duplication and consequent waste of effort which has come about through the organization of new societies without reference to the sphere and work of those already in the field. The name of the Congress was changed to "The American Peace Congress," to meet once in two years, as heretofore. Its Executive Committee was made permanent, authorized to add to its numbers and to represent the Congress during the intervals between its meetings. It is expected that this Executive Committee, on which will be placed representatives of all the important organizations working for world peace, will become a real national Advisory Peace Council, of which there has been so

much talk within the last two or three years. The committee has since been invited by the Mohonk Arbitration Conference to coöperate with a committee of that body, created for the same end.

The resolutions adopted by the Congress are clear, positive and strong. They cover a wide field—possibly a little too wide—and include in their scope most of the important practical phases of the peace movement as it exists at the present time. Our readers will find these resolutions in full in this paper.

The Anglo-American Arbitration Treaty.

The unlimited treaty of arbitration, in process of negotiation between this country and Great Britain, gives promise just now to be more epoch-making than has been supposed. The draft of the treaty, drawn by Secretary Knox and Ambassador Bryce, has been forwarded to the British Government, and the final terms are expected soon to be agreed upon. The treaty will then be sent to the Senate for consideration and ratification.

It is important that every possible influence be brought to bear to secure its speedy approval. Though the President has taken many Senators into his confidence, it is understood that several of them are in a spirit of doubt as to how far the Government should go in agreeing to submit disputes of every class to arbitration. Letters are said to be pouring in upon Senators from certain Irish and German organizations protesting against the treaty. Letters by the thousand should go from the friends of the treaty from all parts of the country to their Senators urging ratification.

There has never been to our knowledge such an almost universal outburst of intelligent sentiment throughout the nation in favor of any other peace measure as in favor of this. The people are with the President, and the Senate should not be left in ignorance of this fact. No friend of the measure should neglect his duty at this time.

What is making the matter of such unexpected significance is the probability that both France, which has already entered the negotiations, and Germany, which has asked for information about the terms of the convention and expressed her interest, will, in all probability, either become direct parties to this treaty or join us in similar agreements of an unlimited character. Japan is also expressing her desire to be counted in. If these five great powers come to an agreement that henceforth no manner of dispute shall be allowed to lead to war among them, what can the other nations do but to speedily join the combination?

Are we indeed near the day when the system of war and armed peace is to be renounced and supplanted by an international federation in which the nations will move together in mutual respect, trust, and support, spending their substance in helping and blessing rather than in exhausting and blighting each other, as they have been so long doing? The fact that such a question is even suggested by the events of the hour is full of meaning. It will not be